

Ernesto Espaldon, established himself as a true Filipino and American patriot. Joining the Sulu Guerrilla Organization as a freedom fighter, the 16-year-old soldier quickly proved his abilities as a soldier and leader. On January 12, 1945, Ernesto and two fellow soldiers fended off a contingent of Imperial Japanese soldiers attempting to take the village of Banaran, Tawi-Tawi. For their heroism, the grateful people of Banaran erected a monument memorializing the battle and the three soldiers.

Spoken in his own words, Dr. Espaldon was a humanitarian who firmly believed that "God gives us gifts that we might share them, not hold them for our own." For 36 years, Dr. Espaldon fulfilled those very words, having made biennial medical relief missions to islands throughout Micronesia. He founded the Guam Balikbayan Medical Mission and pioneered teams of local and national experts on journeys to isolated provinces in the Philippines. Committed to meeting the medical needs of others, in particular children and young adults, his efforts were entirely voluntary. These medical missions set an example of community service for others.

He served six terms in the Guam Legislature. Dr. Espaldon was a dedicated public servant of the people of Guam. His political career was one marked by courage. He sponsored and steered to passage the island's first smoking ban legislation and he did so under the threat of losing his bid for re-election. He was a man who worked hard for the good of the people and the island of Guam.

Having served with Dr. Espaldon in the Guam Legislature, I recall that he was a model citizen-senator. His service was marked by dedication and advocacy for health issues. His devotion to his family and to the people of Guam is an inspiration to our island. His keen attention to detail and thoroughness was a reflection of his medical training. I will always remember Ernie for his spirit, his community involvement, his humanitarianism and his compassion to the condition of those less fortunate.

I am deeply saddened by this loss and know that many people on Guam, in the Philippines, and throughout the Pacific are mourning as well. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leticia Virata Espaldon, M.D., and their six children: Arlene, Vivian, James Albert, Diane Marie, Karl Patrick, and Ernesto Jr. Although he will be missed by his family and friends throughout the Pacific, his legacy of service will live on in our community.

HONORING THE 9/11 FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor the flight crew members that lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

During the horrific attacks that took place on that fateful date, thousands of innocent people lost their lives at the hands of these terrorists. Among them, 25 flight attendants, 5 captains and 4 first officers were lost on American Airlines flights 11 and 77 and United Airlines

flights 93 and 175. Everyone of them acted heroically in the face of the terrorist attacks, the magnitude of which is unparalleled in American history.

In addition, on December 22, 2001, the flight crew members of American Airlines flight 63 responded with courage, determination, and skill, saving the lives of 185 passengers, 12 crew members, and countless people on the ground, by helping to restrain Richard Reid, who was attempting to detonate a bomb in his shoe.

This Monday, September 11, 2006, on the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial Foundation will hold a candle light vigil and dedication of a new memorial to honor these American heroes in Grapevine, TX.

It is my honor for this memorial to be located in my district. It will serve not only as an inspiration to every American because of the courage and fortitude the flight crew members showed in the face of danger on 9/11, but also as a stark reminder of the continuing danger that we all face and the vigilance we must maintain.

RECOGNITION OF PETE HOSKINS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander L. (Pete) Hoskins, who has diligently served as President and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo for the past 12 years. Pete is the Zoo's 12th president and the fourth-longest serving leader since it opened in 1874. America's first zoo and one of the region's foremost conservation organizations, the Philadelphia Zoo is home to more than 1,500 animals, many of which are rare and endangered. The Zoo, fulfilling its mission of conservation, science, education and recreation, supports and engages in conservation efforts to protect endangered species around the world.

I am proud to have known Pete, not only as head of the Zoo, but also during his tenure at the Fairmount Park Commission and the City of Philadelphia. Pete has been serving the citizens of Greater Philadelphia for over 30 years. His vision and cultural destination advocacy reaches beyond the Zoo. He championed a plan to promote a network of family-friendly attractions in Fairmount Park, revitalizing the Park and positioning it as a family destination with the Zoo as anchor. The relocated Please Touch Museum will be a key step in making the "Centennial District" a reality. I am pleased that Pete, former chair of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, will continue to work on behalf of the arts and culture community in the Philadelphia region.

During his tenure at the Zoo, Pete led an unprecedented, \$100 million capital investment, including the Zoo's spectacular, \$20 million Bank of America Big Cat Falls exhibit that recently opened. The list of new facilities and other Hoskins-led initiatives includes: New Animal Health Center, PECO Primate Reserve, Reptile House Renovation, Dodge Rare Animal Conservation Center, Lorikeet Landing, Monkey Junction, and Channel 6 Zooballoon.

Pete also has laid the foundation to raise capital for three more master plan projects, including a series of new bird exhibits, a new elephant habitat, and a new children's zoo. In 1997, he guided the Zoo's Board and staff through the development of "Vision 2020" and the Zoo's master plan as the Zoo renewed and strengthened its mission to educate visitors and inspire them to take action in their own lives to protect animals and their natural habitats. All of the Zoo's new exhibits now include key conservation messages and opportunities to engage in conservation outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Pete Hoskins. His knowledge, dedication and vision for Philadelphia are truly an asset. I would like to thank him for his Zoo leadership and sincerely look forward to working with him for the betterment of Philadelphia into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMOGENE HARRIS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Mrs. Imogene Harris, an important community leader in Tennessee, a tireless political activist and my dear friend. Imogene died Saturday in an automobile accident.

Imogene had been active in the Gibson County Democratic Party and the Tennessee Democratic Party for nearly 50 years, during which she was an important part of hundreds of local, state and national campaigns. I was fortunate to have Imogene working in my congressional office. She also worked closely with my predecessor, the late Congressman Ed Jones, former Governor Ned McWherter and Vice President Al Gore, and served as a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions.

She was just as involved locally. A board member at the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and former chair of the Milan Housing Authority, Imogene was also to be sworn in next week as a Gibson County Commissioner.

The driving force behind her work was an attempt to help those around her and make our community stronger. Imogene was known in Tennessee for her take-charge attitude. She knew her opinions, shared them often and acted on them enthusiastically.

Imogene and her late husband, Tom "Skinny" Harris, have two daughters, Jan Anderson of Milan and Pam McAlpin of Trezevant, and four grandchildren, Jake and Clay Anderson, and Jason and Adam McAlpin.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened that you and most of our colleagues in the House of Representatives never got to meet my friend, Imogene Harris. The way she lived her life, the passion with which she acted on her beliefs, and the dedication with which she worked to improve our world, make her the perfect example of effective leadership. She will be sorely missed.